

## **LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**

**November 3, 1997**

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### **LAST WEEK:**

#### **CONGRESS PASSES FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS -**

Congress completed work on Agriculture Appropriations Wednesday evening when the Senate passed the conference report, H.Rpt. 105-252. Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) brought the conference report to the floor for consideration under unanimous consent, which indicates that a roll call vote is not taken. No members chose to provide remarks on the measure on the floor, however Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Dale Bumpers (D-AR), and Ron Wyden (D-OR), did express support for NRCS funding of RC&D areas in the Record. The Conference Report was quickly passed by unanimous consent and now goes before the President for his signature.

#### **RESEARCH TITLE -**

SENATE PASSES S. 1150 - The Senate acted quickly on Wednesday night and passed its version of the Agricultural Research Title by unanimous consent.

HOUSE MARKS UP H.R. 2534 - The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Bob Smith (R-Ore)) on Wednesday marked up H.R. 2534, a bill to reform, extend, and repeal certain agricultural research, extension, and education programs.

#### **CONCENTRATED LIVESTOCK BILL INTRODUCED -**

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) introduced the Animal Agriculture Reform Act on Tuesday, October 28th. This bill, S. 1323, is aimed regulate concentrated animal feeding operations for the protection of the environment and public health. Specifically, the legislation calls upon USDA to craft mandatory animal waste management plans to assist producers in minimizing runoff and better managing nutrients. S. 1323 also authorizes an addition \$600 million for the EQIP program, annually to assist confined livestock operations. The bill also calls for penalties against producers for non-compliance.

#### **PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN WALTER CAPPS -**

Walter Capps (D-CA) died suddenly Tuesday evening while returning to Capitol Hill from California for this weeks session. Mr. Capps was serving in his first term as representative for the 22nd whose district includes Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

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**THIS WEEK:**

**PHOSPHORUS BRIEFING** - NRCS will participate in a House Agriculture Committee hosted briefing on the effects and sources of phosphorus in agriculture and the environment.

Nov. 3            1:30 p.m.            1302 Longworth

**EQIP BRIEFING** - The House Agriculture Committee will host a briefing on EQIP in advance of Tuesday's hearing. NRCS will provide a brief overview on the program, our implementation, and a summary of how the first round of contacts has gone.

Nov. 3            2:30 p.m.            1300 Longworth

**EQIP HEARING** - The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research (Chairman Larry Combest R-TX) will hold an oversight hearing on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

USDA Witness:            Tom Hebert, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment  
                                 Parks Shackelford, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs

Nov. 4            9:30 a.m.                            1300 Longworth

**POTENTIAL ADJOURNMENT OF 1st SESSION** - Congressional leaders continue to work towards adjournment of the first session of the 105 Congress. Congressional leaders have expressed the desire to adjourn as early as Friday, November 7. The printed calendar for Congress had set the target adjournment date at November 14. Likely, Members will remain in Washington until items at the top of the legislative docket have been addressed, including several appropriations bills.

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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**2nd SESSION OF THE 105th** - The 2nd session of 105th Congress will begin in January, 1998.

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